

Abstract

This invention realizes an image decoding apparatus and an image decoding method capable of correctly performing a decoding process in short time with a simple construction. In an image decoding apparatus and an image decoding method for performing a decoding process under a prescribed coding method, simple playback frames comprising an I-picture and following prescribed pieces of P-pictures on the basis of the I-picture existing at a desired position in picture data encoded with the coding method are extracted in a fast playback mode.